

Across the country, Native American sacred sites are being threatened with destruction and few options exist to halt the damage. Over the years Congress has enacted laws to "consult" with Indian tribes about sacred areas, and to "accommodate" Indian religious ceremonies.

The problem is that we have thousands of sacred sites on public lands all across this nation and no firm process to disallow certain activities that will harm or destroy the site. We need to find a way to protect the sacred sites while permitting needed growth and energy development to continue. I know we can find the right balance.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF NALEO ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) as it celebrates its 25th year of working towards strengthening the participation of all Latinos in our great democracy.

Founded in 1976, NALEO was established as a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization of the nation's Latino elected and appointed officials. Later in 1981, NALEO Education Fund was instituted to politically empower the greater Latino community. Because of such efforts, NALEO has significantly contributed to the sizeable increase of Latino elected officials over the past couple decades. Today, NALEO is well recognized as the leading nationwide organization of Latino political empowerment.

I especially applaud the efforts of the NALEO Education Fund, which conducts a series of programs geared towards integrating Latino immigrants into American society, developing future leaders among Latino youth, providing assistance and training to the nation's Latino elected and appointed officials, and conducting research on issues important to the Latino community.

I would like to congratulate Arturo Vargas, Executive Director of NALEO for his excellent leadership. I have long supported NALEO and the NALEO Education Fund and offer my sincerest congratulations on a very successful 25 years.

CONGRATULATING LOUISIANA'S CRAIG PERKS ON PGA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP WIN

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Craig Perks, 2002 winner of the PGA Players Championship. Craig and his family are residents of my congressional district in Southwest Louisiana and our community takes great pride in his outstanding accomplishments.

Craig is living proof that hard work and perseverance do bring reward. He has given 110

percent effort to his pursuits since coming to this country from Palmerston North, New Zealand in 1985. His adopted home quickly became South Louisiana, where he and his wife Maureen—a Broussard, Louisiana native—live with their two young children.

An All-American golfer at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Craig has continued to give back to the Lafayette community after graduation. As an assistant professional at Le Triomphe Golf Club in Lafayette, he worked on his game while coordinating tournaments and instructing beginning golfers. Now, as a professional in the spotlight, he continues to set an example of sportsmanship and make his chosen home proud.

Craig is an inspiration to golfers not only in my district, but around the world. From Palmerston North, New Zealand to South Louisiana, his efforts have succeeded in promoting and opening the doors of opportunity for "Cajun Golfers" everywhere. I congratulate Craig on his first PGA Tour win. I have no doubt that South Louisiana will continue to follow the rise of our "adopted son" and applaud his efforts in the years to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE DENNIS FLORES

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the leadership of a member of the Pueblo community who has had an immeasurable effect on the lives of those he has touched. Dennis Flores has spent a lifetime committed to serving his country and the community of Pueblo, Colorado. To reward his efforts, his alma mater, the University of Southern Colorado, has recently bestowed upon him the high honor of Outstanding Alumnus. As Dennis accepts this honor, I would like to commend him on the diligence and commitment he has shown to his community and fellow Coloradans to achieve this recognition. He is a generous soul and I am honored to pay tribute to him before this body of Congress, and this nation.

Before Dennis entered college, he served this nation as a member of the U.S. Army Security Agency. With the rating of a top-secret crypto clearance, he served with distinction in Vietnam, receiving both Vietnam Campaign Medals for his outstanding service. After returning to Pueblo, he enrolled at the University of Southern Colorado and graduated with a degree in business management. It was at this time he began to work for SCA Insurance as an insurance agent trainee, and amazingly has continued with the same organization for over thirty years. Today, under his leadership as Senior Vice President and principal, the company serves as a model agency and business in the community.

Desiring to further serve his community, Dennis volunteers much of his time and efforts to improving the lives of his fellow residents. He has been a pioneer in developing programs to enhance the Latino community and has served as President of the Latino Chamber of Commerce. Dennis has been instrumental in establishing the Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation to help Latino students afford education and is credited with being an

instrumental part in the creation of the El Pueblo Inter-Development Corporation, an innovative loan program created for small businesses. As a result of his dedicated leadership, Dennis has been elected to and served on the board of the Pueblo School District for over eight years. With his help and dedication to improving education, District 60 has been nationally recognized in reading reform, educational assessment, and accountability.

Mr. Speaker, it is an incredible honor to represent such a distinguished man as Dennis Flores and be able to bring his achievements to the attention of this body of Congress, and this nation. His generosity, success, and service to his fellow Coloradans serves as a model example of giving back to the community and I would again like to thank him for all that he has done for Pueblo and Colorado. Thanks for all your efforts Dennis and good luck in your future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to return to Congress on Tuesday, April 16, 2002, Wednesday, April 17, 2002, and Thursday, April 18, 2002 due to a death in my family. I request an excused absence for these days. Had I been present, the record would reflect that I would have voted:

On rollcall No. 96, H.R. 476, Motion to recommit with instructions, "Yea".

On rollcall No. 97, H.R. 476, on passage, "No".

On rollcall No. 98, on approving the journal, "Yea".

5TH ANNIVERSARY OF MING PAO DAILY NEWS

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to commemorate the 5th Anniversary of the Ming Pao Daily News, a source of information to the Chinatown community in New York's 12th district and to Chinese Americans in major cities across the country.

Ming Pao Daily News provided vital coverage of the September 11 terrorist attacks, the aftermath of which deeply affected Chinatown. In addition, the newspaper covered other news of interest to the Chinese American community, including the democratic elections in Taiwan last December.

Ming Pao not only produces news of interest, it is thoroughly committed to improving the community. Through charity fundraising, educational seminars, and sponsorships of cultural events, the newspaper is dedicated to showcasing the best the community has to offer.

I am pleased to mark Ming Pao's five years this month. I wish the organization the best of luck and success for many more years.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.